

UPDATED VERSION

Regulation 7: Notice of Requirement for Additional Research and for Restricting Products Beyond EPA Approval.

The Plant Board will notify applicants for registration in writing if any additional research, evidence or information will be required, and specifically what information will be necessary in order to receive state approval. The notice may also inform the applicant that once the requested information is reviewed, further information or research may be requested based upon pertinent science.

The Board considers the environment in Arkansas to be unique, therefore there will be a higher consideration given to research that is specific to Arkansas. Research conducted by scientists from universities within the state will be the primary source of expertise to allow the Board to determine if the data is scientifically sound and relevant to growing and cropping conditions in the state of Arkansas. While this expertise shall be used as guidance when considering a product for registration or restricted use, the Board may consider other research sources and is not bound by the advice or findings of any one individual or entity, and any final determination regarding registration rests within the discretion of the Board.

Prior to issuing regulations that restrict the use of a product beyond what has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, the State Plant Board shall provide notice to the product registrant, in writing, of what pertinent research findings and recommendations of other agencies of this state, the federal government, or other reliable source that the board considered in reaching their decision in accordance with A.C.A. 20-20-206.

In the event the Board finds any research presented in connection with the restricted use of a product to be insufficient, the Board shall also state in writing why such a finding was made and also provide written justification behind the board's decision to further restrict the use of the product. The Board shall provide this notice to the product registrant at the first available opportunity but no later than 45 days after the initial review by registration staff of the written application for registration.

Within 14 days of receiving a notification of restricted use, the product registrant shall notify the Board, in writing, if they wish to dispute the decision of the Board and state the specific reasons for the dispute and as necessary submit additional research findings and recommendations for the board's consideration. Plant Board staff will then decide whether the registrant has provided sufficient additional information, evidence or research to change the proposed restricted use. As previously stated in this rule, the Board will present its findings in writing.

Further, for products that have received federal approval from the Environmental Protection Agency and are currently registered and being used in the state, the Plant Board must provide written notice to the product registrant before placing further

restrictions on the product. The Plant Board must state in writing the reasoning and justification behind the board's decision to place additional restrictions on the use of the product and what actions the product registrant may take to prevent the additional use restrictions, if applicable.